

Kappa Sig Avoids Suspension

MIT, KS Promise Changes During Six-Month 'Period of Review'

By Rima Arnaout
NEWS EDITOR

At a decision hearing yesterday, the Cambridge License Commission decided not to suspend Kappa Sigma for a September alcohol violation that landed them in hot water for the second time this year.

Early in the morning of September 29, Kappa Sig's underage brother and rush chair, Kevin T. Weston '03, was taken from the house to the hospital for intoxication, despite the fact that the house had agreed to stay dry for two years after an alcohol violation last year.

The CLC imposed a six month period of review for Kappa Sig, during which MIT must take specific actions to put alcohol use under control.

"I'm very pleased that the commissioners have been willing to consider the goals of disciplinary sanctions in a broader way than has been true in the past. They have wrestled mightily with the issue and I thank them," Dean for Student Larry G. Benedict said.

Benedict praised the message endorsed by the CLC. "Their new educational approach to getting the message across not only about dangerous drinking but also about the importance of getting help for students who may need it ... [is] very positive to our students," Benedict said.

A move away from punitive sanctions lowers the barrier to seeking medical help in alcohol-related situations, Benedict said.

This ruling represents a change in thinking and relations between MIT and the CLC, according to those who attended the hearing.

"Given the fact that there was a hearing, a lot of good came from it in that we know how [the CLC is] thinking differently," said Interfraternity Council President Damien A. Brosnan '01, who attended the hearing.

"The way that MIT, the house, and the CLC have handled the situation is very productive, showing that education is a better tool than punishment," said Rebecca M. Grochow '01, IFC vice president of activity organization.

Benedict agreed, saying he

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More Students Apply Early to MIT

By Naveen Sunkavally
EDITOR IN CHIEF

MIT's early applicant pool jumped to 3,427 students this year, an 11 percent rise from the 3080 applicants at this time last year. The increase is less than the substantial 41 percent rise in applications last year but reflects an ever-increasing interest in the Institute over the last few years.

Dean for Admissions Marilee Jones attributed the rise in early applicants to three factors: the rise in population, better recruitment efforts, and changes in admissions policies at peer institutions.

For example, Harvard, Brown, and Georgetown changed their admissions policies last year to match MIT's in that students have

the freedom to apply early to more than one university, Jones said.

In addition, Jones said that increased publicity for MIT may have also contributed to the increase in applicants. "Any publicity is good publicity," she said, citing both positive coverage of donations and construction efforts and negative coverage of issues related to student life.

MIT is aiming to have 1,000 students enroll next fall, and no more than

30 percent of the incoming class will be admitted through early action, Jones said.

Class part of new generation

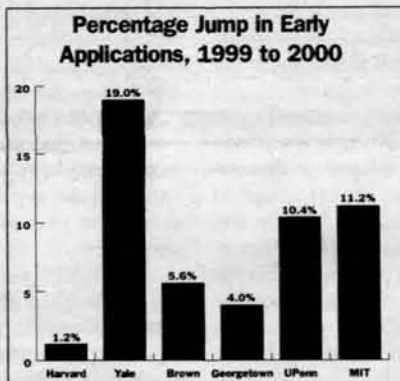
This year's incoming applicant pool continues a marked trend away

from the type of students applying four or five years ago, Jones said.

"The population has changed. [The Class of 2001] was at the very tip of the leading edge of the next generation," Jones said. Students this year are much more interested in community service, are more pragmatic, and have better group skills compared to students from the last generation, she said.

Also, there "continues to be an

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Advocate Says Bill Would Expose U.S. Crimes Abroad

By W.S. Wang
STAFF REPORTER

In a highly interactive forum last night, Andrew Miller, Amnesty International-USA's acting advocacy director for Latin America and the Caribbean, spoke with an audience of about thirty about the process of uncovering U.S. involvement in atrocities in the Americas. The forum was sponsored by MIT's Amnesty International chapter.

Miller described the potential impact of the proposed Human Rights Information Act (HRIA), which seeks to "provide a process for declassifying on an expedited basis certain documents relating to human rights abuses in Guatemala, Honduras, and other regions."

Noting that "the US record has not been the most positive vis-à-vis

in human rights in Latin and Central American," Miller narrated a long history of intervention on the part of the United States in support of authoritarian governments to protect "specific economic and military strategic interests."

The audience was clearly well-versed in the topic. Throughout the discussion, which lasted over an hour, many speakers cited incidents of torture or abuse, noting that U.S. involvement was often not uncovered until well after the fact due to the secrecy that this bill seeks to eliminate.

For example, the United States has allegedly supplied names to "death squads" in these areas for extermination. Miller said that

Amnesty, Page 14

Cambridge Debates Zoning Petition

By Michael J. Ring
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Debate intensified this week on comprehensive zoning changes proposed for the City of Cambridge, as both the Planning Board and the City Council's Ordinance Committee held hearings on the citywide rezoning petition.

The rezoning petition seeks to accomplish four broad goals: encouraging the development of housing, adjusting the amount of construction and development allowed, reviewing and revising parking requirements, and creating a project review for large development proposals.

While many residents welcome the attempts made by the petition to cool the frenzied pace of development in Cambridge, area business leaders are concerned that the proposed zoning changes will make it difficult for their businesses to remain in Cambridge.

Petition will increase housing zones

To encourage the construction of housing, the city is considering rezoning 17 currently commercial and industrial areas to residential use. Additionally, the

zoning petition seeks more flexibility in converting existing industrial and commercial buildings to residential use.

Under the rezoning petition, areas in the city including Kendall Square, East Cambridge, and Alewife would be targeted for downzoning, reducing the area and height of buildings allowed in the neighborhoods.

The petition also recommends restrictions on rooftop mechanical devices.

The zoning petition would create a project review process for developments in high-density areas that exceed 25,000 square feet or generate

a significant amount of traffic. Cambridge established similar project reviews on a temporary basis through the Interim Planning Overlay Petition in 1998.

Finally, the rezoning petition seeks to lower the amount of parking in the city. Projects with a level of parking beyond the maximum in the ordinance would require a permit from the Planning Board.

Excitement over housing prospects

Several city councillors and numerous residents are very enthusiastic about the potential for

Zoning, Page 15



AARON D. MIHALIK—THE TECH

Alexander W. Phillips '03 drives through two Newbury College defenders to put up a shot during the men's basketball game on Thursday. The Engineers defeated the Knights 76-56.

Cambridge universities will present their long-term plans to the city over the month of December.

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OPINION

Kris Schnee urges Vice President Al Gore to concede the election and abandon his presidential ambitions.

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WORLD & NATION

England Shaken, Outraged After Boy's Stabbing Death

THE BALTIMORE SUN

LONDON

Two dozen bouquets and a Bible now lie on the concrete stairs of the dingy housing project where 10-year-old Damilola Taylor died earlier this week.

Damilola's death has Britons wondering about the state they're in, about violent youth in blighted places like Peckham, the inner-city London neighborhood where drugs are dealt in daylight and where Damilola lived, and where he died Monday.

Nobody knows if the Nigerian schoolboy who arrived in Britain four months ago was murdered by bullies who went too far, or if he was merely in the wrong place at the wrong time as he walked home from an after-school computer class.

His left leg stabbed, an artery sliced, Damilola left a bloody trail 100 yards long, stretching down a bleak block and up a stairwell to a death that shocked a nation.

Big Drop in Lung Cancer Rates Credited to California Programs

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

California's lung cancer rates decreased by 14 percent between 1988 and 1997, far outpacing declines in other regions of the country and prompting jubilant federal health officials to credit the state's stringent anti-tobacco programs.

"We are very, very excited about this," said Terry Pechacek of the office on smoking and health at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The CDC office released a study Thursday comparing California's lung cancer rates to those in five other states and three metropolitan areas.

California has consistently been ahead of other states in initiating aggressive public health efforts to discourage tobacco use. In 1988, it became the first state to pass a voter-approved initiative — Proposition 99 — that raised tobacco taxes by 25 cents per pack and dedicated part of the revenue to a comprehensive anti-smoking prevention program.

Palestine Accuses Israel of Using Excessive Force to Quell Unrest

THE WASHINGTON POST

RAMALLAH, WEST BANK

Iyad was shot because he ran too fast. Nshat was shot because he missed his ride. Ronny was shot for throwing a stone. And Abdel Kareem was shot where his two friends died.

All four were shot in the legs by Israeli soldiers during clashes over Israel's continued occupation of Palestinian-inhabited areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. And they now are among the thousands of Palestinians wounded by what Palestinian officials, and some human rights groups, say is Israel's use of excessive force to quell the unrest.

Exact numbers are hard to come by, but more than 7,000 Palestinians have been wounded and more than 250 killed since the uprising began Sept. 29, compared with an estimated 35 Israeli Jews killed and scores wounded. Of the more than 120 who have suffered eye injuries, about 32 are blind.

The U.S.-based Physicians for Human Rights sent forensics experts and an orthopedic surgeon to the region.

The team concluded in an early November report that the Israeli army "has used live ammunition and rubber bullets excessively and inappropriately to control demonstrators, and that based on the high number of documented injuries to the head and thighs, soldiers appear to be shooting to inflict harm, rather than solely in self-defense."

WEATHER

Ryder Truck Heads to Mexico, Gore Concedes Election

By Naveen Sunkavally

EDITOR IN CHIEF

A yellow Ryder truck carrying half a million ballots from West Palm Beach intended to arrive at Tallahassee, Florida took a detour and ended up in Mexico, where a band of terrorists descended upon the truck and decided to take a match to it. Vice President promptly conceded the election, citing the fact that "he couldn't take it anymore."

Driver Tony Enos and his police escort, who are alleged to have connections with the Mexican guerilla leader Subcommander Marcos, are now wanted by the FBI, CIA, Florida state troopers, and the National Guard for election tampering. Anyone with information leading to their arrest will be given the reward of the United States Presidency.

Here's the weekend weather. Getting nippy out there, no?

Weekend Forecast

Friday: Sunny and windy. High 38°F (3°C)

Friday Night: Clear with a cold wind. Low 24°F (-4°C).

Saturday: Bright and sunny; breezy and cold. High 34°F (1°C). Low 20°F (-7°C).

Sunday: Cold with bright sunshine, becoming breezy later in the day. High 36°F (2°C). Low 28°F (-2°C).



FRANK JOHNSTON—THE WASHINGTON POST

Carpenters are beginning to build the inaugural viewing stands in front of the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue. As usual, the military planners have been scrutinizing the parade route, checking out potential inaugural ball sites and scouting media viewing spots. However, all the information gathered cannot be handed over to the new president until one is finally chosen.

Bush, Powell Meet to Convince Nation GOP Has Won Election

By Mike Allen

THE WASHINGTON POST

AUSTIN, TEXAS

Texas Gov. George W. Bush held a showy strategy session Thursday with the star of his prospective cabinet, retired Army Gen. Colin L. Powell, and expressed exasperation that any doubt remains about the outcome of the presidential race.

Powell began their brief on-camera banter on a light note, saying, "Congratulations, governor, on your success in your election." Bush laughed, but clearly sees nothing funny about his continued race with Vice President Al Gore.

"I've won three counts, and I think it's time to get some finality to the process," Bush said. "One of our strategies is to get this election ratified. And the sooner, the better — for the good of the country."

Powell's visit to Bush's ranch near Crawford, Texas, was the latest play in the Republican campaign to convey a sense of inevitability about the governor's ascension to the presidency. Bush is withholding his first Cabinet announcement until at least next week, partly out of deference to U.S. Supreme Court, which is to hear arguments Friday regard-

ing the Florida recounts.

But it has been full steam ahead this week for the Bush team as the governor opened a transition office in the Washington suburb of McLean, Va., and deployed running mate Dick Cheney to begin putting together a new government.

Bush was clearly annoyed to be asked whether Thursday's photo opportunity was held to quell criticism that he has appeared out of touch with events in Florida and Washington. "That's pretty humorous," Bush said. He had answered several questions, and that would be the last one. "Thank you all for coming," he said, and turned back toward his house.

Bush, Cheney and Powell lunched Thursday with their wives. Beforehand, the three couples came to a fence to meet with reporters.

Powell, deeply popular with voters of both parties since his service as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under former president George Bush during the Persian Gulf War, is Bush's near-certain choice for secretary of state.

Bush and Powell were publicly coy. "I have not yet been asked, and if that question should be posed to me, I think I should answer it direct-

ly to the governor at that time before answering it to anyone else," Powell said.

Powell denied reports that he had asked Bush to delay his nomination because of the electoral chaos. He said he did not expect an immediate announcement.

Bush was asked whether he was concerned that the Florida legislature's steps toward appointing electors "has the appearance of a partisan power play to short-circuit the courts."

"I felt like we won on election night," Bush replied. "Then there was a recount in all Florida counties. And then there was a selected recount in additional Florida counties. And each time, Dick Cheney and I ended up on top. And the reason why we're moving forward with our discussions and the transition is because when the counting finally stops, we want to be prepared to lead this nation. That's what we're elected to do."

As he has before, Bush referred questions about the details of his strategy to his recount adviser, former secretary of state James A. Baker III. That led to a question about whether he and Cheney are directing the team's decisions.

Palestinians Turn Down Barak's Scaled-Back Proposal for Peace

By Lee Hockstader

THE WASHINGTON POST

JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak proposed a sharply scaled-back peace deal Thursday that would grant recognition to an independent Palestinian state on part of the West Bank and Gaza but leave disputes on final borders, Jerusalem and Palestinian refugees unresolved for up to three years.

Palestinian officials, insisting on a comprehensive peace agreement, immediately dismissed the offer as a political ruse intended not to advance peace efforts but to launch Barak's just-declared re-election campaign for a vote likely to be scheduled for the spring. They said his proposal for a turnover of only 10 percent more West Bank land would do nothing more than fulfill Israeli pledges made in earlier

agreements but not carried out.

"We will not be part of Israel's election campaign," said Saeb Erekat, a top Palestinian negotiator. "The issues he spoke about — the 10 percent of the land and so forth — these issues were supposed to be implemented last November. Once there is an agreement there must be a comprehensive one. There is nothing new in what he said."

Barak, down in the polls and facing steep re-election odds, advanced his offer in an appearance in Tel Aviv as reports circulated of quickening diplomatic efforts by Israel to resume peace talks with the Palestinians after two months of violence and bloodshed. As part of those efforts, Israel also held out the possibility of "confidence-building measures" to coax the Palestinians back to negotiations.

These would include the release

of Palestinian prisoners, restoration of Palestinian work permits for jobs in Israel, resumption of tax revenue transfers to Palestinian accounts and reopening of crossing points from Jordan and Egypt into Palestinian-run territory. Israeli analysts say that Barak, who bowed to overwhelming political opposition this week and acceded to the new elections, has little hope of victory unless he can revive the negotiations, secure a major peace deal with the Palestinians and make it the centerpiece of his campaign. Thursday, he challenged that view and sought to reassure Israelis that he will do nothing rash in pursuit of an agreement.

"I never said that I'm going to speed things up in working toward an agreement as a result of the elections," Barak said in a speech to Israeli newspaper editors. "I also don't intend to put anything on hold."

High Court Could Use Obscure Law in Deciding Election Case

By Charles Lane
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

As the Supreme Court prepares to enter the unfamiliar territory of a disputed presidential race, the outcome of the case — and possibly the election itself — could hinge on the court's interpretation of an obscure federal law born of the partisan political battles of the 19th century.

In their final written arguments submitted to the justices Thursday, the two sides clashed over the meaning of the Electoral Count Act, passed by Congress in 1887 and largely ignored since. When the high court convenes at 10 a.m. Friday in to hear oral argument in Bush vs. Palm Beach County Canvassing

Board, the once obscure law will be at the center of the presentation by lawyers for Vice President Al Gore and Texas Gov. George W. Bush.

The law was intended to prevent a repeat of the 1876 presidential election debacle, in which Republican Rutherford B. Hayes defeated Democrat Samuel Tilden after a near-civil war over competing slates of electors appointed within several states. It sets criteria for deciding whether a state's choice of electors is to be considered "conclusive" when Congress assembles to count the electoral votes.

The crucial language in the statute provides that, in states where a "contest or controversy" over the choice of electors arises, the dispute

should be settled "pursuant to" state laws "enacted prior to" election day — and that the dispute should end at least six days before the electors are supposed to meet to vote.

If the dispute is settled in accordance with those conditions, then the electors chosen will be recognized by Congress.

In the view of the Gore team, led by Harvard Law School professor Laurence Tribe, the Electoral Count Act was meant merely to regulate each state's "dispute resolution process." That process, the Gore lawyers argue, can include judicial interpretation of pre-existing state election law, such as the Florida Supreme Court's decision allowing manual recounts to proceed.

Feds Back Plan to Change Course of Missouri River

THE WASHINGTON POST

Federal officials on Thursday proposed changing the flow of water in the Missouri River to mimic the waterway's natural flow, a move designed to help restore its endangered fish and birds.

In an unusual display of cooperation between two usually antagonistic agencies, leaders of the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Army Corps of Engineers agreed publicly that a "spring rise" in water levels is necessary to save the Missouri's pallid sturgeon, piping plovers and least terns from extinction.

The announcement reignited one of the Midwest's nastiest environmental battles.

Environmentalists welcomed Thursday's "biological opinion" by the wildlife service that the status quo is unacceptable — as well as the agreement by the Corps, which manages the river, that it must increase the flow during the springtime and decrease flow in the summer. A spring rise would also enhance recreation on the Missouri's reservoirs in North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana, though Gen. Carl Strock of the Corps warned that the agency may fine-tune the proposal to minimize any flooding of farmers or interruption of navigation.

But advocates for farmers and barge owners who would be hurt by a spring rise vowed to fight it, noting that Texas Gov. George Bush announced his opposition to the change earlier this year while campaigning in Missouri.

LAPD Officers Encouraged Man's Suicide, Ex-Cop Says

LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES

As a distraught man contemplated suicide in his apartment near downtown, police officers from the LAPD's Rampart Division callously encouraged him to take his own life, according to previously unpublished transcripts of interviews with former officer Rafael Perez, which have been obtained by the Los Angeles Times.

"If you're going to commit suicide, hurry up and ... do it, so we can get out of here," Perez quoted officers as saying to the unidentified man.

Perez told investigators on the LAPD's corruption task force that the officers continued to yell at the armed, barricaded man. "You know, 'You ain't gonna do it. ... We ain't got all day,' that kind of thing," Perez said. "While they were doing this, they heard a gunshot go off ... and the guy had shot himself in the head."

The chilling account is contained in one of 14 volumes of Perez's interviews with detectives and prosecutors that until recently have been the subject of a court protective order. The National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers plans to announce that the transcripts are available on its Web site: <<http://www.criminaljustice.org>>.

Mexican Guerilla Leader Returns On Eve of Presidential Inaugural

By Kevin Sullivan
THE WASHINGTON POST

MEXICO CITY

The Mexican guerrilla leader known as Subcommander Marcos has surfaced on the eve of President-elect Vicente Fox's inauguration, blasting outgoing President Ernesto Zedillo as a "nightmare" and threatening to provide Fox with the first major challenge of his presidency.

In an open letter to Zedillo written from Marcos' hideout in "the mountains of southeast Mexico," the ski-masked rebel leader accused Zedillo of aggravating the six-year-old rebel uprising in Chiapas, Mexico's southernmost state on the border with Guatemala.

Marcos said Zedillo waged war rather than negotiating with the rebels, specifically blaming Zedillo for the December 1997 massacre of 45 indigenous women and children by paramilitaries in the town of Acteal.

"You did everything you could to destroy us, and we resisted," wrote Marcos, who had made no public statements since Fox was elected July 2. "You will go into exile, and we are still here."

Marcos reappears on the public scene at a delicate time for Fox, as heads of state and business leaders from around the world are arriving for his inauguration Friday.

Fox has pledged to resolve the Chiapas conflict.

Immediately after his swearing-in, he is expected to announce a partial withdrawal of army troops from the conflict area, as well as economic aid to improve the lives of Chiapas' poor Indians.

Fox also intends to announce government support for a 1994 peace accord with the rebels that Zedillo's government failed to ratify.

But while Marcos offered no criticism of Fox in his letter, he offered no support either, despite Fox's repeated pledges to negotiate with his Zapatista rebels. "For us the nightmare ends today," Marcos said of Zedillo's term. "Another could follow, or it could be a new dawn."

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OPINION

A Step in the Right Direction



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The Cambridge License Commission's decision not to suspend Kappa Sigma for a September alcohol incident comes as a welcome surprise. *The Tech* is pleased to see that the CLC has

Editorial

chosen to reshape its role in punishing living groups. Instead of intervening in internal affairs, board members have decided to trust MIT's administrators to handle its own campus.

In its last editorial about Kappa Sig, ["Deciding Punishment for Kappa Sig," Nov. 21], *The Tech* recommended that the Cambridge License Commission suspend the fraternity over Independent Activities Period. This recommendation was made under the assumption that the CLC would hand down a punishment at least as stringent as the one it had previously given Kappa Sig after an incident last spring. *The Tech* is now pleased to see that the CLC has exceeded its expectations.

This decision is unique, in that every party involved benefits from it. Kappa Sig can lift its head from the chopping block one more time. Benedict and MIT now have the implicit authority to keep incidents internal, thus blocking some of the media glare. The CLC has passed the burdensome responsibility of policing college students back to the administration. And students can begin to live and party like college kids again, confident in the knowledge that they will not face eviction if they accidentally have a little too much to drink.

The CLC deserves praise for its willingness to listen to the members of the MIT community. Instead of punishing Kappa Sig with a suspension or revocation of license, the CLC has chosen to support alcohol education as a means to solve prob-

lems associated with alcohol abuse on campus. CLC Commissioner Benjamin C. Barnes wisely offered to visit personally with concerned houses in Cambridge to allay their fears about calling for medical transport in an emergency. Richard V. Scali, executive officer for the CLC, also will go into the community to explain his role and responsibilities. This process will allow both sides to learn more about each other. House members will be able to listen to board members' concerns in an informal setting, while the CLC will discover why students need a service like confidential medical transport.

Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict deserves praise for his role in winning over the CLC and convincing its members that, finally, MIT can do its job of enforcing student responsibility. Benedict has been a tireless advocate for students ever since arriving at MIT in August. He has an uncanny ability to relate student concerns to both the administration and the city governments. Additionally, he can find solutions that satisfy both the student groups seeking more freedom and the ruling bodies seeking fewer disruptions.

Now is the time to support Benedict. The CLC's decision places the responsibility for student actions squarely on his shoulders. He rises — and falls — based on how we as students handle our new freedom.

As we enter a new phase, we must remember to responsibly enjoy our freedoms. While we have greater latitude, we're still only one ugly incident away from a return to the stone ages. Not even Benedict could save us then. Make no mistake — Kappa Sig and the MIT student community both received a reprieve yesterday. Let's work to keep it.

Letters To The Editor

Next House Sanctions Are Unreasonable

[Editor's note: The following letter was also sent to Assistant Dean Carol Orme-Johnson.]

On the night of October 27th, a party, or parties, on Next House Third East violated MIT policy and Massachusetts law. The party was not properly registered with MIT; more importantly, alcohol was served to underage persons and there were a number of (largely unrelated) acts of vandalism. These facts are unquestioned and there is no defending the behavior of the students.

Irrespective of this, however, the sanctions levied by Ms. Orme-Johnson are unreasonable and unjustifiable. In her recent letter to Jay Mitchell, president of Next House, Orme-Johnson said, "The third floor may have NO parties, registered or unregistered, with or without alcohol, from now until 10 June 2001," a party being defined as "ANY gathering to which people from outside Next House have been invited, ANY gathering in common space with people from outside Next House, EVEN IF THEY ARRIVE UNINVITED, and ANY gathering in a student's room of more than six people." In addition, the entire third floor has been put on probation during period, so that, in the event of "any incidents involving alcohol or vandalism during that time, all Third East residents will be required to move off the third floor, and some may be required to leave MIT housing."

These sanctions are unacceptable on four counts: first, that many are being punished for the actions of few; second, that the punishment does not fit the crime but is little more than public posturing on behalf of the administration; third, that the sanctions effectively shut down Third East; and fourth, that the sanctions leave the administration in an untenable situation if enforced.

With regards to the first two points, it is clear that a small minority of the residents were responsible for the damage. They should be held accountable for their actions. However, the vast majority of residents had no part in the actions, and it is unreasonable to punish them equally with the perpetrators.

To do so not only puts an unfair burden on them; it also reduces the personal accountability of the vandals and effectively shields them from the consequences of their actions. It appears that the administration is attempting to show the dormitory system, and, more importantly, the Cambridge License Commission, that it will treat the dormitories and the fraternities equally harshly. These measures are designed more for show than for effectiveness, and, as such, are likely to do more harm than good.

Regarding the third and fourth point, that these sanctions effectively shut down Third East and will likely prove untenable if enforced, the punishments (particularly the definition of a "party") are simply too broadly worded to be acceptable. I don't consider two students working on 6.001 in a lounge a party, even if one is friend from another dormitory, and I doubt that the administration does either, but the sanctions do. Nor do I think that the residents of Third East should be held responsible for the actions of uninvited non-residents. It will likely be argued that these examples are absurd and that discretion will be used in enforcing these ordinances. This is a weak argument.

The broadly worded language leaves no room for discretion. If the probation is meant to be enforced as written, it is patently absurd; and if it is intended to be enforced whimsically, we travel further down that dangerous path of having a hypocritical system that says one thing meaning another.

Ms. Orme-Johnson, I implore you; these sanctions do nothing more than erode the confidence of the students and embitter them

to the administration. And when they are shown to be unenforceable they will do little more than prove to the city of Cambridge that MIT is incapable of policing itself. Moderation is a virtue in governance; but it is one little practiced here at caffeinated MIT.

Shannon J. Russell '01

Pure Brilliance from the Pumpkins

As a long time fan, I was shocked to see the Smashing Pumpkins featured in *The Tech* [Album Review, Nov. 28]. The review was one of the very few unbiased reviews I've ever read about the band. For once, the Pumpkins weren't criticized for their recent work or for the fact that they're breaking up (most people attribute it to the "control freak," Billy Corgan, whose comments about "the Britneys" are often misinterpreted as those that come from someone who is just out to sell records).

What's unfortunate, though, is that the brilliance of their music gets lost in a culture that rarely requires its entertainers to produce meaningful music. After achieving so much mainstream success with *Siamese Dream* and *Mellon Collie*, the band was shunned when 1998's *Adore* was a far cry from anything the band had ever produced. *Machina: The Machines of God*, similarly, was dismissed for not having the sound of familiar hits like "Bullet With Butterfly Wings" and "Zero". But that the band constantly challenges itself to explore new avenues of music is what makes them truly unique.

At a time when everyone in the industry is trying to sound "alternative," the Pumpkins have stayed true to themselves and to their purpose, which is to make quality, meaningful music.

Christine E. Casas '04

Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, news editors, and opinion editors.

Dissents are the opinions of the signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Columns and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper.

Letters to the editor are welcome. Electronic submissions are encouraged and may be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions may be addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without the express prior

approval of *The Tech*. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

The Tech's Ombudsman, reachable by e-mail at ombudsman@the-tech.mit.edu, serves as the liaison between *The Tech* and its readers. From time to time, the Ombudsman writes an independent column reflecting the complaints, questions, and concerns of the readership.

To Reach Us

The Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure who to contact, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. *The Tech* can be found on the World-Wide Web at <http://the-tech.mit.edu>.

The Ombudsman

Pravda We're Not

On Tuesday I used this space to criticize *The Tech's* news coverage; today I use it to defend this paper. In the current issue of *Counterpoint* Matthew R. Norwood '99 paints *The Tech* as the willing henchman of an administration intent on deceiving students. While *The Tech* has its flaws, this paper is certainly not "MIT's *Pravda*" as Norwood suggests in his article "The Ministry of Truth."

The Tech, in striving for the "objectivity and completeness" that Norwood discards in preparing his timeline of events since the death of Scott S. Krueger '01, may not have reported every incident that he relates but it has served the student body well within the rules dictated by responsible journalism.

Norwood is right when he says that many of the stories he relates can't be found in *The Tech's* archives: that fact is a credit to this newspaper. While it may be acceptable in the sphere of opinion writing to make statements without recourse to attribution or confirmation (such as Norwood's claim that the final RSSC report was "written in a two-day writing marathon by a member of the dean's office") such speculation has no place in a newspaper that hopes to earn the respect of students and faculty alike as a reliable source of information.

In my last column I demanded that *Tech* staffers, as their most basic task, get the facts right and I hold Norwood to no lesser a standard: he perpetuates a number of inaccuracies related to *The Tech* that merit correction. For instance, Stacey E. Blau '98 was not a member of the *Tech's* editorial board in August of 1998 as Norwood claims and, in fact, is not even listed as a staff member during that time. Later, Norwood says that the editorial board reversed its stance on the 2001 decision in February of 2000. In fact, that editorial only encouraged President Vest to not set any hard deadlines for moving all freshmen to campus ["Scrapping the 2001 Policy," February 29, 2000].

Norwood's most severe grievance with *The Tech* seems to be with what he characterizes as the radical stance of its editorial board (which he apparently equates to disagreeing with the majority of the student body). On this point he is correct: *The Tech's* editorial board has often disagreed with the student majority especially on the issue that has come to be known as the 2001 decision.

Where Norwood errs is in arguing that that editorial board was somehow anti-student. Just a few issues before the 2001 decision editorial the same group of editors published an editorial blasting the "administration's serious lack of consideration and respect for students." ["MIT's Duplicity Towards FSILGs," July 8, 1998]. Further, simply disagreeing with the student body does not make *The Tech* an administration mouthpiece. As an independent force which speaks for the student body but is not bound to always agree with that body, *The Tech* only gains influence on the administration.

That 1998 editorial board (of which I was a member) believed that moving freshmen on campus was the first step in improving a residence selection system that was detrimental to student life. Norwood, in criticizing that decision now, has the benefit of something the board did not in 1998: the knowledge that the residence redesign process which was about to begin would turn out to be a debacle from the student perspective.

Looking back on the events of the past three years is a valuable exercise and Norwood makes some important observations about what may have motivated administrative decisions and why student action against those decisions ultimately failed. In singling out *The Tech*, however, he misses the mark. It is precisely what he criticizes — an independent editorial voice and a dedication to journalistic principles — that make *The Tech* such a valuable resource to the student body.

Frank Dabek G is the *Tech's* ombudsman. He can be reached at ombudsman@the-tech.mit.edu.

Kris Schnee

Vice President Gore:

I address you as Vice President because, despite your ambitions and your numerous ongoing legal actions, you are not the President-elect, Mr. George W. Bush, the Budweiser of politics, has legally won the Florida vote and therefore the national election. The election is over, and it's time to move on.

Don't worry too much; Bush isn't going to have very much power over the country. He inherits from Clinton a divided American public, and an even more divided Congress. The House is split 220-211, and the Senate (at the moment) 49-50, since Mr. Lieberman will probably be keeping his seat. If elderly Jesse Helms or ancient Strom Thurmond retires, the Senate could even come under Democratic control. In the new administration, only programs with bipartisan support (like science and space exploration, hopefully) will have much chance against Washington gridlock, and most Americans would agree that that's not entirely a bad thing. Besides, Mr. Gore, it's not as though your positions were all that different from Bush's anyway. And rest assured, if Mr. Bush tries anything like his Texas "Jesus Day" stunt on a national basis, he will be eviscerated on this very page.

Bush will probably be only a one-term president, given the murky nature of this election. If the Republicans have any sense at all, they will ditch Bush in 2004, freeing themselves from Bush's record and the stench of this election, and find someone better suited to run for President against Hillary Clinton.

You have been manipulating the election process for your own gain. While I won't claim Mr. Bush hasn't been doing the same thing in his own way, his lawyering doesn't justify your own actions. You demanded a "full" count of the Florida votes, but you didn't really mean it. What you actually want is a full count, and then some, only in three Florida counties selected because they are heavily Democratic. Selecting only a few counties is not a legitimate way to determine the real winner.

Give It Up, Al

Nor is your strategy for generating Gore votes an honest and impartial system. Hand recounts are always a gamble; they discover real votes which were missed by the machines, but they can also fabricate new votes where none exist. Humans are inevitably

biased counting machines even when the marks are clear, but your campaign is trying to make the count even more subjective. If a ballot has a vague dimple in it, visible only with a magnifying glass, is that because the voter had trouble with the machine, or because the voter was indecisive? I certainly don't know, and neither do the Florida counters. You are trying to apply the loosest possible standard for the ballot-counting, so that the voters' intent can be determined by stressed, bleary-eyed election officials.

And oddly enough, even as you try to apply the loosest sense of the law to the ballot recount, a Democrat-filed lawsuit in Florida's Seminole County aims to throw out thousands of military absentee ballots because, through no fault of the American soldiers who wanted to have a say in the election, the ballots were not properly postmarked. If you become president somehow, can we expect you to treat the law with the same double standard as your party has applied this November?

You can be proud of your campaign, Al; you really have made a difference. The public scrutiny drawn to this election by the closeness of the contest is a good thing for the country. Countries which are democratic (er, free) are no more corrupt than dictatorial countries, but a free-press country has a lot more dirt to publish because, when there is corruption, the public finds out about it. This election has probably not been more riddled with corruption than any other, but since the next president will be elected by a margin of error, we're getting a close view of some of the bugs and rot in our electoral system. And now that we've seen them, we can start fixing them. (Sunshine, they say, is the best disinfectant.) We can also redesign our ballots and voting machinery so that we will never again have world leaders bickering about little paper rectangles. This may even be the election which destroys the Electoral College system.

Throw in the towel, Mr. Gore. Use your fame and influence to lobby for election reform, and you can stay in the limelight for a long time. Maybe you can have Hillary's Senate seat when she's done with it.

Fly the Sturgeon Skies

Feel the Pain of Airline Inefficiency

Philip Burrowes

The past holiday weekend saw a massive breakdown in the efficiency of air transport. I was a firsthand witness to the masses who had to wait through delay after delay, from the transit to the airport to the trip back to the dorm. For all the airline executives reading, I'll pass along whatever highly relevant nuggets of wisdom I have accumulated throughout my brief Course XI career.

First of all, never watch more than two shows or movies revolving around transportation disasters. No matter how secure you are, doubts will start creeping into your head after you've been stuck on a tarmac for an hour. In the past week, I've seen *Bounce*, *Unbreakable*, a segment of HBO's *Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel* devoted to the Marshall University football team's plane crash in 1970 (the single worst sports accident in American history), and have debated renting *Airplane!* That's pretty much my limit. Every extra minute spent waiting for a delayed flight was an extra minute for terrorists to plant bombs on my plane. As for the delay itself, who knew what kinds of technical difficulties those aeronautic relics were experiencing?

Secondly, get to the airport early. You never know when the airline will decide to start serving people on a first-come basis. To comprehend that, think of Lobdell's line at noon, the line at 50-340 before an exam, and the waiting list for a U.S. visa — all combined into one cannibalistic mob. Then turn it down a notch, because we're only talking about some planes. That will be environment you're stuck in.

Airlines, if for whatever reason you have

to start assigning people to the first plane possible, please make sure you do it in some reasonable manner. My particular airline, for example, gave out sets of colored tickets at the gate, calling certain colors before others. These tickets should be of colors with obvious names

destinations, but also call out all colors so people aren't totally unsure of their prospects.

Chances are your airline won't be lucky enough to have such expert consultations. *Hakuna matata*. This is your opportunity to be with a few hundred people of diverse origins who you won't see very much of thereafter, something you rarely experience at MIT. What better place to, that's right, steal. Make sure to steal from people with a different destination (or different color ticket) than yours so it'll be hard for them to catch up. For those of you who don't like breaking laws, there's always voyeurism. After getting tired of trying to determine if the girl in front of me was speaking Cantonese or German, I listened to the phone conversation of a Harvard football player, and let me tell you that they live interesting lives. It almost pays for having lost the Big Game (and the election) to the Elis. Actually, he was probably just some guy in a Harvard windbreaker going to D.C., but let me have my moment.

Finally, when you're done waiting for a gate in Logan and finding luggage that looked enough like yours to satisfy your conscience, it's time to determine if you should take the T. The amount of people waiting for a taxi is a function of the time of day, *t*. Your wait is directly proportional to the number of people waiting (not accounting for traffic, which pretty much invalidates this model). Meanwhile, your wait for the T is about half an hour, except it won't run from 12:30 to 5:30 in the morning. You can figure it out from there. Look, it took me twice as long to fly here as it would to drive, so I'm tired. Leave me alone.



ON THE SCREEN

— BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF —

The following movies are playing this weekend at local theaters. The Tech suggests using <<http://www.boston.com>> for a complete listing of times and locations.

★★★★ Excellent
★★★ Good
★★ Fair
★ Poor

102 Dalmations (★★★)

Cruella De Vil is released after three years in prison, and now she's on yet another villainous quest. This time, she's set her eyes on the "ultimate" fur coat, which requires 102 dalmatians. Watch Cruella and her group of bumbling henchmen manipulate flirtatious kennel-owner, Kevin, and his love-interest, Cloe, to humorous ends. — Devdoot Majumdar

Adventures in Wild California (★★★)

The theme of this movie, California's wild nature, is the direct inspiration for the spirit of adventure, exploration, and innovation — but it is the glorious visuals (sky surfing and regular surfing, snowboarding, helicopter flights) that provide real excitement. — Vladimir Zelevinsky

Best in Show (★★)

The latest release by mockumentary filmmaker Christopher Guest spoofs the peculiar American phenomenon of the dog show, and focuses on nine would-be blue-ribbon winners, each more absurd than the last. The most

unforgivable error Guest makes is in the film's marketing. *Best in Show* is guilty of one of the most onerous offenses of bad action flicks: it gives away its best scenes during the film's trailer. What's left after the jokes that everyone's already seen is a series of unrelated and mostly offensive stereotypical scenes, the theatrical equivalent of calling people names. It is too bad that Guest, given his considerable resumé and a great setup for a film, can't grow up enough to intelligently poke fun at a decidedly deserving subject. — Jed Horne

Billy Elliot (★★★)

A sweet, spirited, and enjoyable (albeit sometimes clumsily rendered) movie experience. A young British boy, hypnotized by dancing, begins studying ballet, much to the chagrin of his lower-class father. The seemingly obligatory political backdrop is awkward and unnecessary, but overall, it's a heart-warming and amusing piece of light fare that recovers well from any of its missteps. Warning: thick British accents. — Karen Feigenbaum

Charlie's Angels (★★★)

This mixture of James Bond, *Mission: Impossible*, *The Matrix*, and *Drunken Master* is so much fun that it can't help but be infectious. The screenplay suffers from familiarity, and the final sequence is a letdown, but most of the movie is preposterously entertaining. Crispin Glover as a wordless assassin is a comic highlight. — VZ

Dancer in the Dark (★★★)

Björk, Catherine Deneuve, and director/writer Lars von Trier team up in this ambitious musical. A heavy and tragic plot collides with campy musical numbers to form a film that is better off as a drama than a musical. Björk and Deneuve's performances are stellar, but the rest of the cast needs intense dance and vocal training in order to make a more convincing musical. The film's music has traces of Björk's unique electronic style, but still feels held back and pulled in different directions. Bring tissues. — Annie Choi

The Legend of Bagger Vance (★)

A tiresome tale about golfer Randolph Junuh (Matt Damon), who lost his "swing," and the mysterious caddy (Will Smith) who helps out by offering philosophical golf advice. Though Damon and Smith give excellent performances, the lack of character development and corny golf spirituality ruins this film. — DM

Little Nicky (★★½)

Yet another uninspiring film in Adam Sandler's film career. Countless cameos from movie stars and SNL would-have-beens divert the attention from Sandler, who is never given the chance to really shine. Though there are some funny scenes, this film falls short on delivering belly laughs. — Erik Blankinship

Meet the Parents (★★★)

From the director of *Austin Powers* comes this offbeat and original romantic comedy about hapless Greg Focker (Ben Stiller) and his attempts to impress his future father-in-law (Robert DeNiro). Pam's (Teri Polo) father, Jack Byrnes, instantly decides that he's unimpressed by his daughter's husband-to-be and what follows is a disastrous family weekend during which things just keep getting worse. With laugh-out-loud humor and an endless array of gut-busting scenes, this film proves to be Stiller's greatest success since *There's Something about Mary*. — Ryan Klimczak

Pay it Forward (★★★½)

With an outstanding and talented cast of actors, *Pay it Forward* proves to be one of this year's most emotionally evocative movies. Social studies teacher Eugene Simonet (Kevin Spacey) creates an assignment of impossible standards: "Think of an idea to change the world — and put it into action." The persistent and imaginative Trevor McKinney (Haley Joel Osment) constructs an ambitious plan known as pay it forward, whereby one act of kindness is reciprocated by three new acts of kindness, and so on. Inspiring, original, and thought-provoking, this film takes us on a spiritual journey on the nature of humanity. — RK

Red Planet (★)

A tiresomely repetitive compendium of some of the most excruciatingly boring sequences ever committed to celluloid, this movie strands five people on Mars to slowly kill them off one by one, using such devices as solar flares and a berserk robot that knows kung-fu. The audience is also in mortal danger — of being bored to death. — VZ

Requiem For a Dream (★★½)

Requiem For a Dream, directed and co-written by Darren Aronofsky (the writer/director of *Pi*), employs an intense visual style to describe the personal hells of four drug-addicted characters and their interconnected spirals into madness and depravity. Aronofsky has overstepped his ability as a filmmaker in his sophomore effort, and for all the flashy pyrotechnics, *Requiem* falls flat on an unfocused plot and mediocre acting. Viscerally, however, *Requiem* is as satisfying, if not more so, than *Pi*. If you liked *Pi*, *Requiem* is a must-see. If you didn't, don't bother. — JH

Unbreakable (★★★)

M. Night Shyamalan's follow-up to *The Sixth Sense* is, despite the presence of Bruce Willis in the lead and similar visual sensibility, a rather different movie: a largely unpredictable genre yarn, which, fortunately, never takes itself too seriously (a couple of very intense sequences excepted). Bruce Willis is used more as a screen presence than a real actor, but Samuel L. Jackson is electrifying. — VZ



JASIN BOLAND—WARNER BROTHERS

(From left) Tom Sizemore, Simon Baker, Benjamin Bratt, Terence Stamp, and Val Kilmer explore the *Red Planet*.

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SUMMER 2001

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES FOR UNDERGRADUATES
MIT HAYSTACK OBSERVATORY

Undergraduate science, mathematics, engineering, and computer science students are invited to apply for summer research positions at the MIT Haystack Observatory in Westford, MA. Research projects include radio astronomical studies, atmospheric physics investigations, and hardware and software development for data acquisition, processing, and recording systems. The program extends from June 11 to August 17, 2001 and carries a weekly stipend of \$450.00, payable biweekly. Women, minorities and students with disabilities are encouraged to apply. For further information and application materials, see <http://www.haystack.edu/reu/> or write to:

Director /REU Program
MIT Haystack Observatory
Off Route 40
Westford, MA 01886-1299

Tel: (978) 692-4764
Fax: (781) 981-0590
email: reuapp@haystack.mit.edu

Application deadline is 19 January 2001.

MIT is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.

MIT Department of FACILITIES

CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

LIFE SAFETY

Installation has begun in Amherst Alley on a fire protection water pipe from Burton Connor to Baker House. Work will continue for several weeks and will disrupt daytime vehicular traffic. Excavation of a trench will cause noise, vibration and some dust.

NW30 (GRADUATE RESIDENCE)

Pile installation during the next few weeks will cause noise disruption to the surrounding area. Project completion: August 2001.

STATA CENTER

Drilling of holes for tiebacks will cause noise and vibration. Soil excavation may produce a sulfur odor due to organic material in the soil. Truck traffic could cause delays on Vassar and Main Streets. Project completion: Fall 2003.

AMES AND AMHERST STREETS

Utility relocation work will disrupt both vehicular and pedestrian traffic through the end of the year. The work is part of the Media Lab expansion. Project completion: December 2003.

MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE

Excavation of a fire protection main will close part of the sidewalk in front of Building 9 and affect the service road at W20. Work will take place in the evenings and on weekends.

SIMMONS HALL

Excavation of soil during the next two months will cause dust and trucks removing the material may impact traffic. Project completion: August 2002.

This information provided by the MIT Department of Facilities:
web.mit.edu/facilities/www/construction/

Clubs

Axis

13 Lansdowne St., 617-262-2437

Sundays: See Avalon below.
Mondays: *Static*. Gay, casual dress. \$5, 18+.
Thursdays: *Chrome/Skybar*. Progressive house, soul, disco; dress code. \$10, 19+; \$8, 21+.
Fridays: *Spin Cycle*. Progressive house, 80's. \$12, 19+; \$10, 21+.

Avalon

15 Lansdowne St., 617-262-2424

Sundays: *Gay Night* with Axis. Three different dance floors featuring hardcore house and techno. \$10, 21+.
Thursdays: *International Night*. Eurohouse. \$10, 19+.
Fridays: *Avaland*. House. \$15, 19+.
Saturdays: *Downtown*. Modern house, club classics, and Top 40 hits. \$15, 21+.

Karma Club

9 Lansdowne St., 617-421-9595

Sundays: "Current dance favorites" by guest DJs. Cover varies.
Tuesdays: *Phatt Tuesdays*. With Bill's bar, modern dance music. \$10.
Wednesdays: *STP*. Gay-friendly, house. \$15, 21+.
Thursdays: *Groove Factor*. House.
Fridays: *Pure*. Drum and bass, guest DJ. \$15, 19+.
Saturdays: *Elements of Life*. International House. \$15.

ManRay

21 Brookline St., Cambridge, 617-864-0400

Wednesdays: *Curses*. Goth. Appropriate dress required. \$5, 19+; \$3, 21+.
Thursdays: *Campus*. Popular tunes + House, Gay, casual dress. \$10, 19+; \$7, 21+.
Fridays: *Fantasy Factory* (First and third Friday of the month. Features kinky fetishes and industrial music.) *Hell Night* (every second Friday, 19+). Includes Goth music.) *Ooze* (the last Friday of the month.) \$10, 21+. reduced prices for those wearing fetish gear.
Saturdays: *Liquid*. Disco/house + New Wave. \$15, 19+; \$10, 21+.

Popular Music

Axis

13 Lansdowne St., 617-262-2437
Next: 423-NEXT

Dec. 3: Buzzcocks.
Dec. 6-10: The Mighty Mighty Bosstones.

Avalon

15 Lansdowne St., 617-262-2424

Call for schedule.

Berklee Performance Center

Berklee College of Music
1140 Boylston St.
Free student recitals and faculty concerts, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. some weekdays. For info. on these concerts, call the Performance Information Line at 747-8820.

Dec. 2: WBUR Presents: This American Life.
Dec. 3: Abraham Fried.
Dec. 6: Rickie Lee Jones.
Dec. 9: Jane Oliver: "An Evening of Christmas & Romance".
Dec. 10: Klezmer Conservatory Band (orig. scheduled for Oct. 28).
Feb. 24: Dave Brubeck.

Club Passim

47 Palmer St, Cambridge, 617-492-7679

Tuesdays: Open Mic at 8 p.m. (sign up at 7:30). \$5.

Dec. 1: Geoff Muldaur.

Dec. 2-3: Christopher Williams.

Dec. 6: End Construction Reunion Show.

Dec. 8-9: Kris Delmhorst.

Dec. 10: Connie Kaldor.

Dec. 14: Alastair Mook.

Dec. 15: Jess Klein.

Dec. 17: Lorraine & Bennett Hammond.

Dec. 18: Arabesque Holiday Concert.

Dec. 19: Aengus - Annual Celtic Christmas and Winter Solstice celebration featuring Robbie O'Connell.

Jan. 18: Michael McDermott.

The Middle East

Ticketmaster: 931-2000.
Ticket prices vary. Call 354-8238 for more info.

Dec. 3: Rainer Maria.

Orpheum Theatre

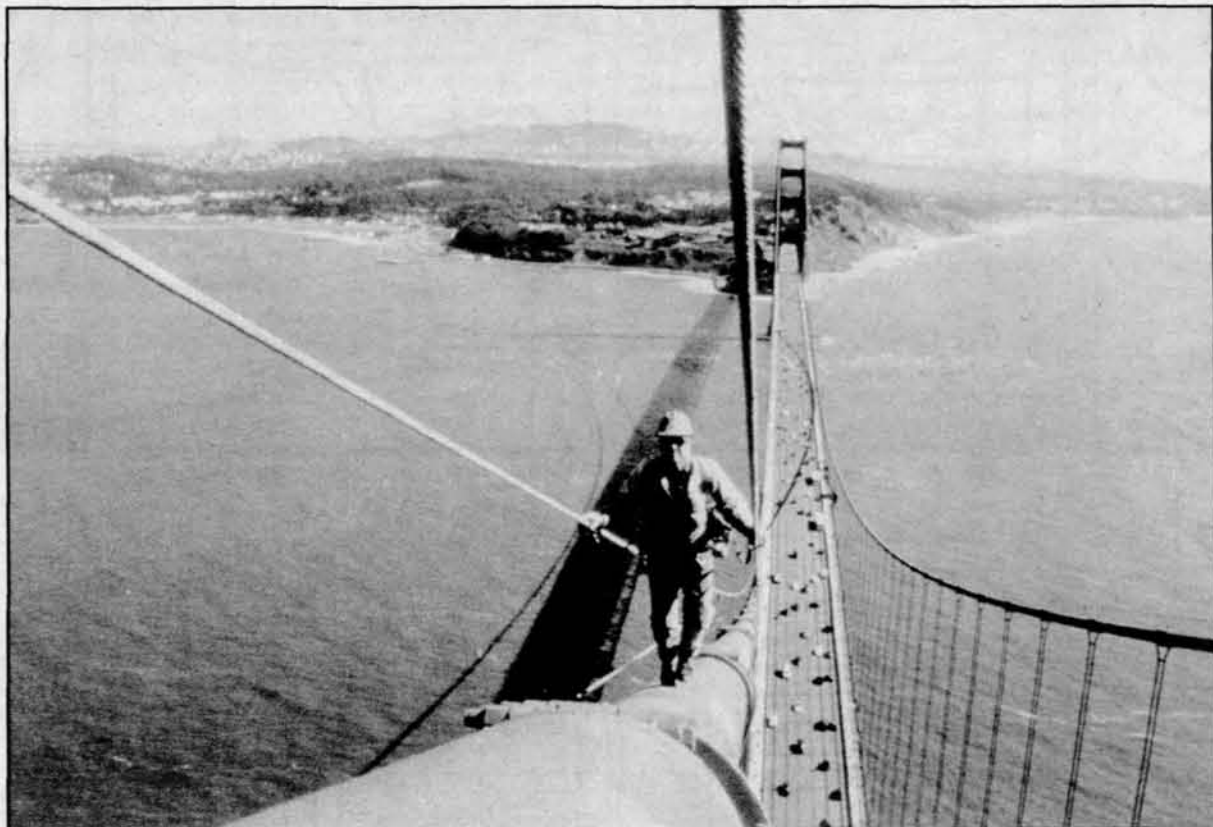
1 Hamilton Pl., Boston, 617-679-0810
Ticketmaster: 931-2000

Dec. 1-3: Paul Simon. Sold Out.
Dec. 16: Joe Jackson.
Dec. 21: Trans Siberian Orchestra.

On The Town

A weekly guide to the arts in Boston
December 1 - 7
Compiled by Fred Choi

Send submissions to ott@the-tech.mit.edu or by interdepartmental mail to "On The Town," The Tech, W20-483.



MACGILLIVRAY FREEMAN FILMS

An ironworker walks on top of the Golden Gate Bridge in *Adventures in Wild California*, now playing at the Mugar Omni Theater at the Museum of Science.

Sanders Theatre
45 Quincy St., 02138, 617-496-2222

Call for schedule.

T.T. the Bear's Place
10 Brookline St., Cambridge, 617-492-BEAR

Dec. 9: Chapter in Verse.

Jazz Music

Regattabar
Concert: 876-7777
1 Bennett St., Cambridge 02138, 617-662-5000

Call for schedule.

Scullers Jazz Club
DoubleTree Guest Suites, 400 Soldiers Field Rd., Boston, 617-562-4111

Call for schedule.

Classical Music

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Tickets: 266-1492.

Performances at Symphony Hall, Boston, MA unless otherwise noted.

For MIT Students: Tickets are offered for Th. evening concerts (8pm) and Fri. afternoon concerts (1:30pm) and are available on the day of the concert only at the BSO Box Office at Symphony Hall (301 Mass. Ave. Open 10 a.m.-6 p.m.). Two tickets may be obtained with two current valid MIT student IDs, subject to availability. For updated MIT student ticket availability, call 638-9478 after 10 a.m. on the day of concert.

Dec. 2, 6, 7 at 8 p.m., Dec. 1 at 1:30 p.m.: Corigliano: Symphony No. 2 (world premiere; commissioned by the BSO); Rachmaninoff: Piano Concerto No. 3. Seiji Ozawa, conductor, Krystian Zimerman, piano. Pre-performance talk given by Marc Mandel. Call for ticket prices.

Holiday Pops

Boston Pops concerts from Dec. 8 through Dec. 31 at 3 and 7:30 p.m. most days. Conducted by Boston Pops Conductor Keith Lockhart as well as Associate Conductor Laureate Harry Ellis Dickson and guest conductors to be announced. Tickets range from \$72 to \$19. Limited availability. For tickets and a complete schedule call Symphony Charge at 888-266-1200 or visit <www.bso.org>.

Theater

Santaland Diaries

Through Dec. 31 at the Copley Theatre (225 Clarendon St. between Boylston and Newbury St.) A hysterically funny broadside attack against that most cherished New York extravaganza, Macy's SantaLand. Seen through the eyes of one of Santa's elves, it tells the juicy behind-the-scenes stories of what SantaLand is really about - screaming children, ferocious mothers, and crazed Santas who probably spend the rest of the year in mental wards. \$8 validated parking at Back Bay Garage. Tickets \$39. Thursday, Friday @7:30PM, Saturday @9PM: \$44. Friday 12/1 @7:30PM, Monday 12/4, Saturday 12/23 @2PM: \$39. Tuesday 12/5 @7PM (Opening Night): \$43.50 For tickets call Tele-Charge at 1-800-447-7400 or visit <www.telecharge.com>. For schedule and more information call 617-747-4468 or visit <www.santalanddiaries.com>.

Antigone

Nov. 24-Jan. 9. At the American Repertory Theatre (64 Brattle St., Cambridge 02138), presented by the A.R.T. and directed by Francois Rochaix. The classic Greek tragedy is presented as part of the Loeb Stage Season. Tickets \$59-\$25. Call 617-547-8300 or visit <http://www.amrep.org> for more information or to reserve tickets.

Checkhov: Three Farces and A Funeral

Dec. 8-Jan. 14. At the American Repertory Theatre (64 Brattle St., Cambridge 02138), presented by the A.R.T. and directed by Yuri Yermolenko. Robert Brustein has taken three of Chekhov's most popular comedies - *The Proposal*, *The Bear*, and *The Wedding* - and linked them with excerpts from the playwright's own love letters and scenes from his life. You'll laugh in recognition at the age-old rituals of love, courtship, and marriage in this effervescent flight of farces. Presented as part of the Loeb Stage Season. Tickets \$59-\$25. Call 617-547-8300 or visit <http://www.amrep.org> for more information or to reserve tickets.

Comedy Connection

Mon.-Wed. at 8 p.m.; Thurs. 8:30 p.m.; Fri. and Sat. 8 p.m., 10:15 p.m.; Sun. 7 p.m. The oldest comedy club in Boston showcases big-name, national comedians on weekends and up-and-coming local talent during the week. At 245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall,

Upper Rotunda, Boston. Admission \$10-\$8 (weekend prices vary). Call 248-9700 for more information and a complete schedule.

Blue Man Group

Charles Playhouse, 74 Warren Street, Boston, indefinitely. Curtain is at 8 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, at 7 and 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and at 3 and 6 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets \$35 to \$45. Call 426-6912 for tickets and information on how to see the show for free by ushering.

Shear Madness

Charles Playhouse Stage II, 74 Warren Street, Boston (426-5225), indefinitely. Curtain is at 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, at 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, and at 3 and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets \$30-34.

Exhibits

Institute of Contemporary Art

955 Boylston St., Boston, 02115, (617) 266-5152 (Hynes Convention Center T-stop). Features a wide variety of contemporary conceptual art with shows which emphasize artists from outside the United States. Admission \$6 adults, \$4 students and seniors, free to children under 12 and members. Admission free on Thursday evenings. Wheelchair accessible.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

280 The Fenway, Boston. (566-1401), Tues.-Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission \$10 (\$11 on weekends), \$7 for seniors, \$5 for students with ID (\$3 on Wed.), free for children under 18. The museum, built in the style of a 15th-century Venetian palace, houses more than 2500 art objects, with emphasis on Italian Renaissance and 17th-century Dutch works. Among the highlights are works by Rembrandt, Botticelli, Raphael, Titian, and Whistler. Guided tours given Fridays at 2:30 p.m.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston. (267-9300), Mon.-Tues., 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m.; Wed., 10 a.m.-9:45 p.m.; Thurs.-Fri., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5:45 p.m. West Wing open Thurs.-Fri. until 9:45 p.m. Admission free with MIT ID, otherwise \$10, \$8 for students and seniors, children under 17 free; \$2 after 5 p.m. Thurs.-Fri., free Wed. after 4 p.m. Mon.-Fri.: introductory walks through all collections begin at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; "Asian, Egyptian, and Classical

Walks" begin at 11:30 a.m.; "American Painting and Decorative Arts Walks" begin at 12:30 p.m.; "European Painting and Decorative Arts Walks" begin at 2:30 p.m.; Introductory tours are also offered Sat. at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Permanent Gallery Installations: "Late Gothic Gallery," featuring a restored 15th-century stained glass window from Hampton Court, 14th- and 15th-century stone, alabaster, and polychrome wood sculptures from France and the Netherlands; "Mummy Mask Gallery," a newly renovated Egyptian gallery, features primitive masks dating from as far back as 2500 B.C.; "European Decorative Arts from 1950 to the Present"; "John Singer Sargent: Studies for MFA and Boston Public Library Murals." Gallery lectures are free with museum admission.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston. (723-2500), Daily, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fri., 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission free with MIT ID, otherwise \$9, \$7 for children 3-14 and seniors. The Museum features the theater of electricity (with indoor thunder-and-lightning shows daily) and more than 600 hands-on exhibits. Ongoing: "Discovery Center"; "Investigate! A See-For-Yourself Exhibit"; "Science in the Park: Playing with Forces and Motion"; "Seeing Is Deceiving." Ongoing: "Friday Night Stargazing," Fri., 8:30 p.m.; "Welcome to the Universe," daily; "Quest for Contact: Are We Alone?" daily. Admission to Omni, laser, and planetarium shows is \$7.50, \$5.50 for children and seniors.

Other Events

The Nutcracker

Through Dec. 31, 2000. Wed.-Sat. 7:30 p.m., Sat. 2 p.m.;

Sun. 1 p.m., 5:30 p.m. At the Wang Center for the Performing Arts, 270 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02116. 617-482-9393. Boston Ballet's *Nutcracker* features choreography by Anna-Marie Holmes, Daniel Pelzig, Bruce Marks, and Sydney Leonard including new sections of choreography by Daniel Pelzig as well as the usual lavish scenery, special effects, and costumes. Filled with the wonder and magic of the holidays, *The Nutcracker* follows a young girl named Clara on her dream adventure to the music of Tchaikovsky. Tickets \$62-\$12. Call Telecharge 800-447-7400 for reservations. For additional information visit <http://www.boston.com/bostonballet>.

Of Battle and Beauty

Through Dec. 17: Photographs of China by Felice Beato. At the Boston University Art Gallery. Gallery Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat. and Sun. 1-5 p.m. Exhibition is free and open to the public.

Dangerous Curves: Art of the Guitar

Through Feb. 25, 2001: The first comprehensive museum exhibition to focus on the guitar as an objet d'art. Audio guide narrated by James Taylor. The exhibit covers four centuries and features more than 130 instruments from museums and private collections around the world. Highlights include a 17th-century guitar created by famous violin maker, Antonio Stradivari, guitars owned by celebrities such as Prince, and Jimi Hendrix's 1967 Gibson Flying V - complete with its psychedelic "flower-power" pattern designed by the musician. Tickets: complimentary to MFA members (Number of tickets dependent on level of membership). Adults \$16 on weekdays, \$18 on weekends. Students/Senior citizens \$14/\$16. Children 6-17 \$6 for both weekdays and weekends. Children <=5 free. Adult group visits are available. Visit <www.mfa.org> or call 617-369-3368 for more information.

New Films from the European Union

Dec. 1-9. At the Harvard Film Archive (located at the lower level of the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts, 24 Quincy St. Cambridge, MA). Often combining political commitments with sly reflexive humor the new generation of filmmakers which have emerged across Western Europe have created works of striking originality. The series includes films from Italy, Belgium, Iceland, Great Britain, France, Greece, Germany, Spain, and Norway. Presented in conjunction with a one day conference "European Cinema and Globalization: Cultural and Commercial Challenges" held on December 4th at the Center of European Studies, Harvard University. Tickets \$7 General, \$5 Students and Sr. Citizens. For more information and a complete schedule, call the Harvard Film Archive at 617-495-4700 or visit <www.harvardfilmarchive.org>.

Film Festivals

At the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 02115. For tickets and more information, call 369-3770. Tickets for each showing are \$7, \$6 MFA members, seniors, students, unless otherwise noted.

Boston Festival of Films from Iran
Through Dec. 16. Check website for full schedule.

One More Day
Dec. 8 at 6 p.m., Dec. 16 at 3:45 p.m. (1999, 75 min., Dir. by Babak Payami.) An illicit relationship and the antidote to loneliness both blossom on a Tehran bus stop bench in *One More Day*. Each day, a man and a woman wait at the same stop, travel the same route, and discover their growing dependence on each other in a culture that condemns interaction between the sexes. Payami presents a touching story of two people struggling against urban anonymity and personal heartache to forge a redemptive connection with each other. In Farsi with English subtitles.

It's a Wonderful Life

Dec. 22-Dec. 24 at 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 p.m. (Sat. and Sun. matinees at 2:15 p.m.) At the Brattle Theatre (40 Brattle St. Cambridge, 02138. By T: Take the Red Line to Harvard Sq.) (1946, dir. by Frank Capra with Jimmy Stewart, Donna Reed, et. al.) The beloved holiday classic concerning a small-town businessman facing financial ruin who wishes he'd never been born. Tickets: \$7 adults, \$4 seniors and children, \$6 all weekday shows before 5 p.m. For more information, call 617-876-6837 or visit <www.beaconcinema.com/brattle/>.

The Magnetic Fields

Dec. 7 and Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. Acclaimed singer/songwriter Stepin Merritt and Company will be performing all of the tracks from his magnum opus *69 Love Songs* over a two-night span at the Somerville Theater (55 Davis Square, Somerville, 02144). Tickets are \$20-\$38 and are available through Ticketmaster (617-931-2000). For more information, call the Somerville Theater at 617-625-5700.

COMICS FUN PAGES

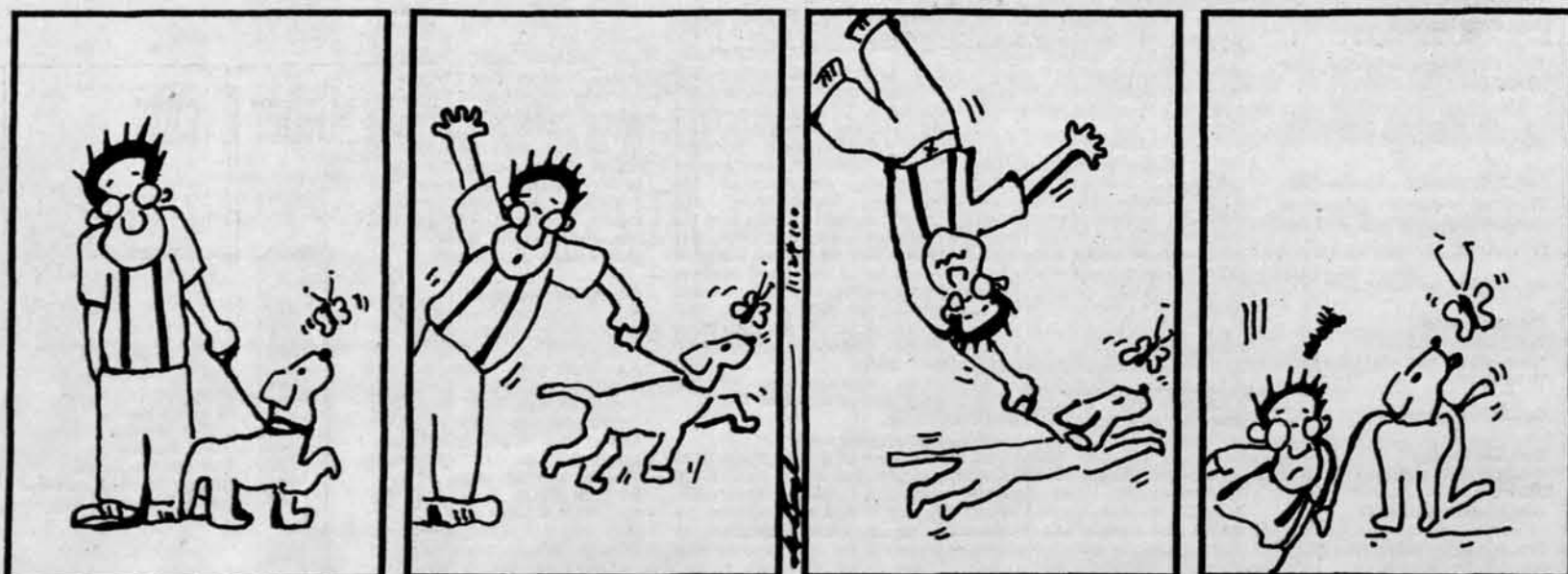
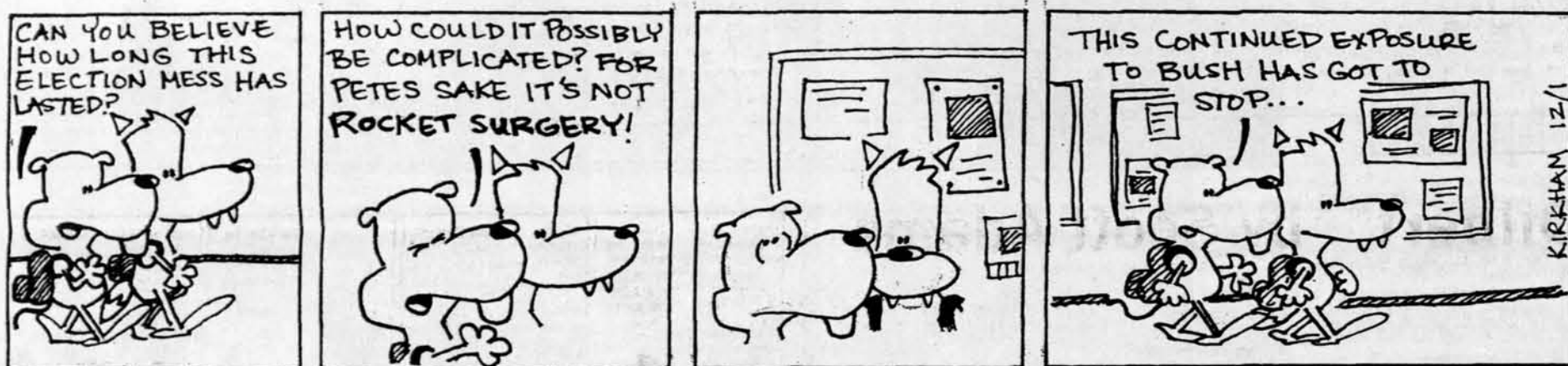
Page 8

Down with Science

by Jennifer DiMase



the crass rat

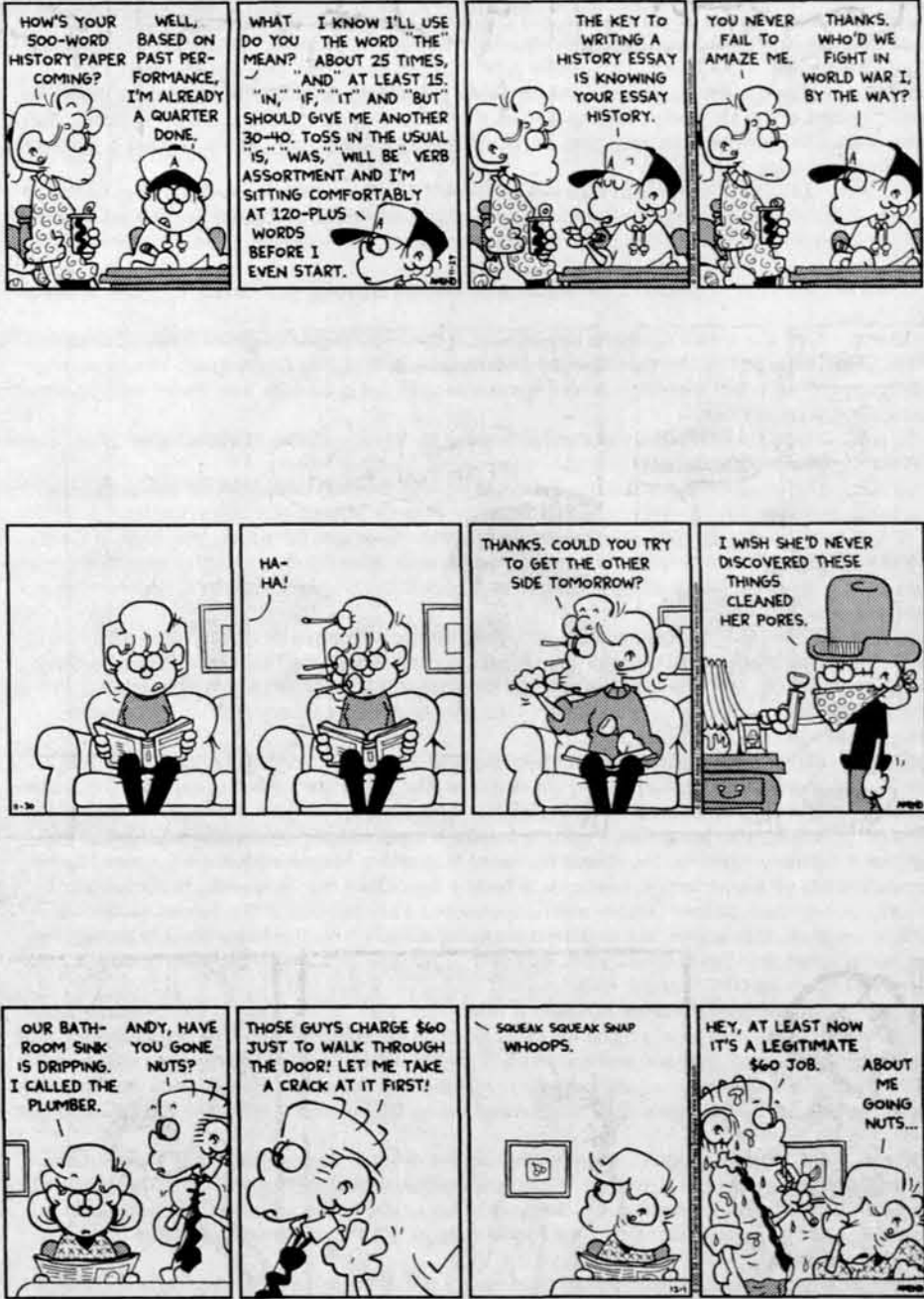




MIT3K by ToastyHen "Meta"



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Aaron Isaksen

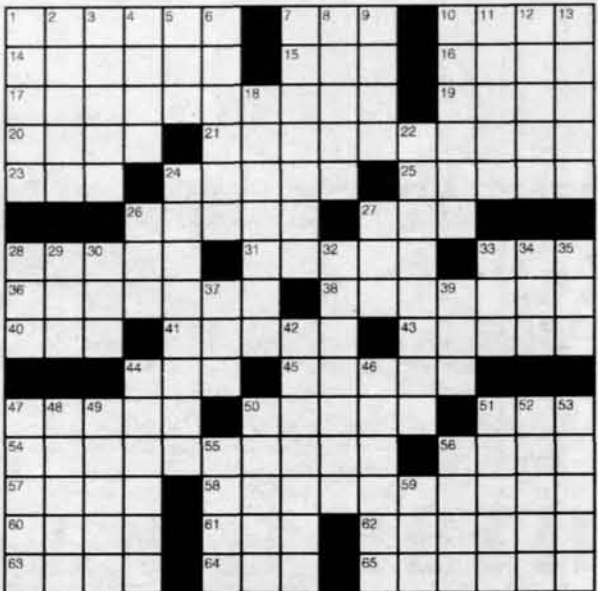


"See! I told you that vomit
isn't part of the food
pyramid!"

Crossword
Puzzle

Solution, page 13

- ACROSS
1 Vaughan and
Bernhardt
7 Be under the
weather
10 Put away
14 Minutiae
15 ___Magnon
16 African nation
17 Officially signed
in
19 Take apart
20 City in Oklahoma
21 Freed from
blame
23 Bankroll
24 Flower of Paris?
25 Kite's clubs
26 Shabby
27 Ship back?
28 Oak starter
31 WWW letters
33 Poke fun
36 Man who made a
Mexican
purchase
38 Soprano Patti
40 Boundary
41 Bit of info
43 Cadge
44 Mongrel
45 Printers'
measures
47 Director Welles
- 50 Manmade fiber
51 Downswing
54 Designing
56 Composer Bartok
57 Prepare copy
58 '50s president
60 September's
number
61 Expert
62 Omen
63 Omen
64 ___ Moines
65 Burial chambers
- DOWN
1 Scatter
2 Forum
3 Stiff
4 Fervent
5 "___Girl Friday"
6 Imitation, shiny
cloth
7 Scuba or snafu,
e.g.
8 Peace goddess
9 Bonanza
10 Dollar-bill artist
11 Kemo Sabe's pal
12 City north of Salt
Lake
13 Tiger's clubs
18 Requiring
immediate action
22 Certain shooter



TechCalendar

Visit and add events to TechCalendar online at <http://tech-calendar.mit.edu>

Friday, December 1

12:00 a.m. - 11:59 p.m. - **CCRR Grants Program: CCRR Grants Application Deadline.** This month's deadline for submitting applications to the CCRR Grants Program. free. Sponsor: Committee on Campus Race Relations.

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - **World AIDS Day - MIT 2000.** On December 1, the MIT Women's League will coordinate the Institute's participation in World AIDS Day, the only international day of coordinated action against AIDS. The purpose of the occasion is to bring messages of hope, compassion, solidarity, and understanding about AIDS to the MIT community. That day several panels from the AIDS Memorial Quilt will hang in Lobby 10 and representatives from the AIDS Action Committee, the Health Education Service of MIT Medical, the Children's Hospital AIDS Program, and the Children's AIDS Program (CAP), will be on hand with information tables. In addition, the Women's League will hold a fundraiser for the Children's Hospital AIDS Program to support care and research. The fundraiser will feature chocolate desserts donated by local bakeries, hotels, restaurants, caterers, and members of the MIT community, as well as a raffle for overnight stays at local hotels and dinners at area restaurants. free and Lobby 10 is Handicapped Accessible. Room: Lobby 10. Sponsor: MIT Women's League.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - **Filemaker User Group.** The MIT FileMaker User Group (fmug) was formed for people at MIT, from beginners to experts, who are using or interested in learning to use FileMakerÆ Pro database software and related products. free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - **Al-Anon Open Discussion: Al-Anon Meeting.** free. Room: E25-101. Sponsor: MIT Medical.

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - **MIT Fall 2000 Department of Chemical Engineering Seminars: "Complex Flows of Viscoelastic Liquids: Experimental Observations & Modeling Challenges".** Weekly seminar series open to the public. Reception before seminar at 2:45 pm in 66-110. free. Room: 66-110. Sponsor: Chemical Engineering.

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - **"Thermal and Optical Sensing for Semiconductor Manufacturing".** free. Room: Rm 3-133, refreshments following in 1-114. Sponsor: ME Seminar Series.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - **Plasma Science and Fusion Center Seminar Series: An RF Driven Plasma Rocket Experiment.** free. Room: NW17-218. Sponsor: Plasma Science and Fusion Center.

5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - **MIT SFS weekly 'meetings'.** While these are, technically, meetings, it is nigh-forbidden to conduct Real Business at them, as they're really social events. Imaginary Business, however, is allowed. Usually a dinner trip follows. free. Room: MITSFS Library, W20-473. Sponsor: Science Fiction Society, MIT.

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - **"Is God Intolerant?".** John Rankin will speak on "Is God Intolerant? Does the Bible Impose Religion on Anyone?" Mr. Rankin is president of the Theological Education Institute in Hartford, CT, and is the author of "First God, Then Politics." His biography is at <http://www.therankinfile.com>. free. Room: 20 Chimneys, Student Center (W20-306). Sponsor: Graduate Christian Fellowship.

7:00 p.m. - **LSC Presents X-Men.** Friday, December 1 at 7 & 10 pm, and Sunday, December 3 at 7 pm. 26-100. Patrick Stewart, Halle Berry, Ian McKellen. The X-Men are a group of mutants with amazing abilities, brought together and trained by the world's most powerful telepath, Professor Charles Xavier (Stewart) to help fight for his dream: a world where the mutant minority and human majority can live together in harmony. However, the Mutant Master of Magnetism, Magneto (McKellen), scarred by the human brutality he's experienced, has come to believe the mutant race is superior to humanity and should rule over them as their betters, and he's amassed a brotherhood of like-minded mutants to achieve his goals. With anti-mutant sentiment prevailing at every turn, the X-Men strive to protect the very humans that hate them. Action, sci-fi. Rated PG-13 for sci-fi action violence. 104 minutes. \$2.50. Room: MIT Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

7:30 p.m. - **LSC Classics Presents To Catch A Thief.** Cary Grant, Grace Kelly. In this Hitchcock mystery, a series of ingenious jewelry robberies takes place on the French Riviera. The police suspect John Robie (Grant), an expert thief who was known as "The Cat" before he retired from crime. Robie enlists the help of an insurance man to guess where the real thief will strike next. He befriends wealthy widow Jessie Stevens and her attractive daughter, Frances (Kelly). \$2.50. Room: MIT Room 10-250. Sponsor: LSC.

8:00 p.m. - **MIT Wind Ensemble.** Frederick Harris, music director. Special Guest: MIT Concert Choir, William Cutter, music director. Copland's Canticale of dom (commissioned by MIT in 1954); Holst's Hammersmith; Bernard's Divertissement, Op. 36 for chamber winds; Rouse's Bonham, for percussion ensemble; Child's Fanfare; Harbison's Vest Pocket Fanfare. \$2. Room: Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: MIT Wind Ensemble.

10:00 p.m. - **LSC Presents X-Men.** Friday, December 1 at 7 & 10 pm, and Sunday, December 3 at 7 pm. 26-100. Patrick Stewart, Halle Berry, Ian McKellen. The X-Men are a group of mutants with amazing abilities, brought together and trained by the world's most powerful telepath, Professor Charles Xavier (Stewart) to help fight for his dream: a world where the mutant minority and human majority can live together in harmony. However, the Mutant Master of Magnetism, Magneto (McKellen), scarred by the human brutality he's experienced, has come to believe the mutant race is superior to humanity and should rule over them as their betters, and he's amassed a brotherhood of like-minded mutants to achieve his goals. With anti-mutant sentiment prevailing at every turn, the X-Men strive to protect the very humans that hate them. Action, sci-fi. Rated PG-13 for sci-fi action violence. 104 minutes. \$2.50. Room: MIT Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

Saturday, December 2

1:00 p.m. - **Men's & Women's Swimming.** free. Room: Alumni Pool. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.

7:00 p.m. - **LSC Presents Hamlet.** Saturday, December 2 at 7 & 10 pm, and Sunday, December 3 at 10 pm. 26-100. Ethan Hawke, Bill Murray, Julia Stiles, Kyle MacLachlan. Set in modern-day Manhattan, this version of Hamlet makes Denmark a giant corporation, the king a CEO, and Hamlet himself a video artist. The surprise is, it's considered by many to be one of the best filmed versions of the play. The story is classic: Hamlet's father (Sam Shepard), the ikingi of Denmark Corporation, is murdered by his brother Claudius (MacLachlan), and his widow (Diane Verona) is to marry the murderer. Hamlet's father's ghost appears before Hamlet (Hawke) with a message: Avenge my death and kill Claudius! This modernization of Hamlet has inevitably been compared to Baz Luhrmann's Romeo and Juliet, but where Romeo sometimes struggles in bringing out the depth of the Shakespearean text, Hamlet succeeds. Drama. Rated R for violence and adult themes. 111 minutes. \$2.50. Room: MIT Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

8:00 p.m. - **MIT Concert Choir.** William Cutter, music director. Music of Aaron Copland including Canticle of dom (premiered by MIT in 1955 for the opening of Kresge Auditorium) performed with the MIT Wind Ensemble (Frederick Harris, music director); and Bernstein's Chichester Psalms. \$5. Room: Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Concert Choir.

10:00 p.m. - **LSC Presents Hamlet.** Saturday, December 2 at 7 & 10 pm, and Sunday, December 3 at 10 pm. 26-100. Ethan Hawke, Bill Murray, Julia Stiles, Kyle MacLachlan. Set in modern-day Manhattan, this version of Hamlet makes Denmark a giant corporation, the king a CEO, and Hamlet himself a video artist. The surprise is, it's considered by many to be one of the best filmed versions of the play. The story is classic: Hamlet's father (Sam Shepard), the ikingi of Denmark Corporation, is murdered by his brother Claudius (MacLachlan), and his widow (Diane Verona) is to marry the murderer. Hamlet's father's ghost appears before Hamlet (Hawke) with a message: Avenge my death and kill Claudius! This modernization of Hamlet has inevitably been compared to Baz Luhrmann's Romeo and Juliet, but where Romeo sometimes struggles in bringing out the depth of the Shakespearean text, Hamlet succeeds. Drama. Rated R for violence and adult themes. 111 minutes. \$2.50. Room: MIT Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

Children's Skating - Skating instruction for 6 - 12 yr old children of the MIT community. 8 Saturday lessons for Beg. and Int. Levels. Registration on a first come basis. Deadline for enrollment is Dec. 2, 2000. Register prior to Nov. 15 and receive \$5 off. \$75 w/o MIT Athletics Card, \$65 with. Sponsor: Physical Education.

Sunday, December 3

10:00 a.m. - **Conference on Dredged Material Management: Options and Environmental Considerations, Dec. 3-6.** Sponsored by MIT Sea Grant and several other Sea Grant College Programs and collaborators, this three day conference will focus on scientific and technical issues related to nearshore disposal choices, financial and legal issues, and policy implications. Three concurrent one-day workshops will follow the conference: The Use of Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) Cells to Manage Contaminated Sediments in Ports and Harbors; Sediment Toxicity and Risk Assessment Tools; and The Use of Dredged Materials for Erosion Control and Wetlands Creation. \$325; \$150 for students; \$100 for 1-day registration. Room: MIT, The Tang Center, 70 Memorial Drive. Sponsor: MIT Sea Grant.

1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - **Ballroom Dance Workshops: Ballroom Dance Workshop.** Beginning Lindy Hop 1-2pm; Intermediate Paso Doble 2-3:30pm; Social dancing 3:30-4:30pm; Advanced West Coast Swing 4:30-5:30pm. Beg.\$1/\$2, Int.\$2/\$3, Adv.\$3/\$5. Social dance: free. Room: Lobby 13. Sponsor: Ballroom Dance Club.

7:00 p.m. - **LSC Presents X-Men.** Friday, December 1 at 7 & 10 pm, and Sunday, December 3 at 7 pm. 26-100. Patrick Stewart, Halle Berry, Ian McKellen. The X-Men are a group of mutants with amazing abilities, brought together and trained by the world's most powerful telepath, Professor Charles Xavier (Stewart) to help fight for his dream: a world where the mutant minority and human majority can live together in harmony. However, the Mutant Master of Magnetism, Magneto (McKellen), scarred by the human brutality he's experienced, has come to believe the mutant race is superior to humanity and should rule over them as their betters, and he's amassed a brotherhood of like-minded mutants to achieve his goals. With anti-mutant sentiment prevailing at every turn, the X-Men strive to protect the very humans that hate them. Action, sci-fi. Rated PG-13 for sci-fi action violence. 104 minutes. \$2.50. Room: MIT Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

7:00 p.m. - **MIT Gospel Choir.** With guest appearances by other gospel talents. free. Room: Sala de Puerto Rico. Sponsor: Gospel Choir, MIT.

7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. - **MIT Poetry Slam.** Sign up at 6pm. One dollar. Room: Kresge. Sponsor: Office of the Arts, Women's Studies Program. DeFlorez Fund for Humor, Council for the Arts.

10:00 p.m. - **LSC Presents Hamlet.** Saturday, December 2 at 7 & 10 pm, and Sunday, December 3 at 10 pm. 26-100. Ethan Hawke, Bill Murray, Julia Stiles, Kyle MacLachlan. Set in modern-day Manhattan, this version of Hamlet makes Denmark a giant corporation, the king a CEO, and Hamlet himself a video artist. The surprise is, it's considered by many to be one of the best filmed versions of the play. The story is classic: Hamlet's father (Sam Shepard), the king of Denmark Corporation, is murdered by his brother Claudius (MacLachlan), and his widow (Diane Verona) is to marry the murderer. Hamlet's father's ghost appears before Hamlet (Hawke) with a message: Avenge my death and kill Claudius! This modernization of Hamlet has inevitably been compared to Baz Luhrmann's Romeo and Juliet, but where Romeo sometimes struggles in bringing out the depth of the Shakespearean text, Hamlet succeeds. Drama. Rated R for violence and adult themes. 111 minutes. \$2.50. Room: MIT Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.



Anything Is Possible

This is where the generation of new ideas lives.

Because we've built a global network of people who see possibilities where others see confusion and risk — and who know how to turn those possibilities into realities. And by working at internet speed — propelling dozens of companies and millions of investors into the new economy.

We are propelling careers all over the world.

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter Asia invites juniors (class of 2002) interested in Summer Analyst opportunities in Investment Banking to apply online at www.msdw.com/career/recruiting.

Application Deadline: December 20, 2000

**MORGAN STANLEY DEAN WITTER
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Careers at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter Asia start @ msdw.com/career/recruiting

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Blood Drive • You can help save lives



Monday, December 11 through Wednesday, December 13
La Sala de Puerto Rico • Second floor of the Student Center (W20)
2PM until 8PM each day

To make an appointment, fill out the form at:
<<http://web.mit.edu/blood-drive/www/>>

If you cannot make an appointment please come to the drive and donate.

This space donated by The Tech

ATTENTION STUDENT COOP MEMBERS GET ON BOARD!



Apply to be elected to THE COOP'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Coop is now accepting applications for nomination for election as a Student Board Member for the 2001-2002 academic year. Applications are available at any Coop branch store, or at the Member Services Office, 4th floor, of the Coop's Harvard Square Bookstore.



www.thecoop.com

Final date for return of application is
FRIDAY, DEC. 15, 2000 AT 5:00PM



SAVE THIS DATE!
DECEMBER 7, 2000

NOAM CHOMSKY

will discuss

NEW HORIZONS IN THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE AND MIND

Introduction by **STEVEN PINKER**

6:00 p.m.

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway

Tickets are free but required
and available at Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge

617-661-1515

www.harvard.com

Colleges to Present Plans to Cambridge

By Shankar Mukherji
STAFF REPORTER

The recent building boom on campuses in Cambridge has left many city leaders wondering what's next and demanding clearer reports from universities on their future development plans.

That demand will be highlighted as the city Planning Board reviews university Town-Gown reports at a series of meetings in December. Although the process of holding public hearings on the Town-Gown reports is not new, the possible adoption of institutional master plans will give the hearings added significance. The Boston Planning Board uses a system similar to that under consideration by Cambridge.

MIT will present its report, which contains comprehensive plans for expansion, on December 5. Harvard will present its report on December 12.

Need for master plans questioned

Both universities have been reluctant in agreeing to the idea of developing master plans.

At a September meeting with the Cambridge City Council, Harvard Vice-President Paul Grogan said, "I don't think a master plan is necessary to acquire the information you need."

The issue of university expansion

and its impact on Cambridge residents has become a perennial sticking point between the schools and community. With the rapid increase in the number of construction projects, however, the tension between residents and university planners is mounting.

In order to curb such tensions between the Institute and the surrounding community, MIT took special care when crafting this year's Town-Gown report, adding a number of elements that may alleviate the need for a formal master plan.

Sarah E. Gallop, co-director of the Office of Government and Community Relations, said, "We have really augmented the report. ... There is more information about planning processes [and] projects [especially] with regard to neurosciences, the Sloan School, and microphotonics."

MIT's Town-Gown report, along with those of Harvard, Lesley College, and Cambridge College, is available at the main public library on Broadway or on the City of Cambridge's web site at <<http://www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~CDD/commplan/towngown/index.htm>>.

All Town-Gown hearings are public and will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Cambridge Senior Center, 806 Massachusetts Avenue.

Benedict Praises CLC Reaction to KS Case

Kappa Sig, from Page 1

appreciated the CLC's use of "unconventional sanctions."

Review period not a suspension

The review facing KS is different from a suspension or a revocation of their license. The review period is also different from having a delayed suspension of license, in which Kappa Sig would have faced suspension if it failed to please the commission during the interim.

Instead, the Kappa Sig case will be reviewed in six months, after MIT has had the chance to make headway on the issues as promised and report back to the city.

The CLC cited their trust in the efforts of Benedict and others at MIT as a reason they could take a non-punitive step at this time.

"I thank the Dean (Benedict) for outlining the issues. We agree on a lot of the chief points; the main sticking point" is what to do about it, Barnes said. Revocation or a 90-day suspension of Kappa Sig license were available options considering the fraternity's situation, Barnes said.

Two weeks ago at a general hearing before the CLC, Kappa Sig alumnus John Seeger '57 described additional actions that already taken by the fraternity. Four of its brothers were expelled, and the alumni board dismissed the old officers and installed new ones, he said. In addition, 12-15 brothers left the house voluntarily.

KS called upon to lead change

The CLC expects that during the six-month review period, KS will act as a leader to get other fraternities to volunteer to change alcohol policy, to prevent similar situations from happening, CLC Chairman Benjamin C. Barnes said.

In a letter to the CLC, Benedict recommended that Kappa Sig not be suspended and outlined a plan in which MIT would form "a new Institute committee to focus on the issues of underage drinking" during the review period.

MIT would also like to convene a forum of local high schools and colleges to discuss how to curb underage drinking.

MIT may collaborate with the city's existing alcohol committees

by having an IFC representative on the Cambridge Licensee Advisory Board and by getting involved in community service. Barnes agreed that strengthening the link between Cambridge and MIT's efforts to curb sale of alcohol to people under 21 was a good idea.

The city will also get involved directly. On December 5, Barnes will come to MIT and talk to FSILG leaders about the CLC and redefining approaches to enforcing alcohol policies.

MIT may hire Jeffrey Z. Snyder G, Kappa Sig's house manager, to help implement the changes.

Isolated nature mitigates violation

Commissioner Barnes expressed his concern that KS didn't get the message to be careful with alcohol after their previous alcohol violation. The CLC's most serious concern was that there was hesitation to call for help on September 29 when Weston was intoxicated and in need of medical attention.

Nevertheless, said Commissioner Green, there is "no direct evidence that anyone except the actual intoxicated person was violating" the no alcohol policy and 30-day suspension during rush. No one else was drinking, Green said.

Green says he "always tries to go by the evidence; to be fair, I rule with that in mind, coupled with speaking to the dean."

Green called for "positive discipline and training," perhaps including periodic inspections as is done with other liquor licensees.

Furthermore, the CLC seemed heartened by Benedict's effort on alcohol issues and wanted to give MIT time to straighten things out. "I don't want to tie his arms," Barnes said.

Indeed, the review is contingent on the specific actions MIT must take to control alcohol on campus. Benedict and CLC Executive Officer Richard V. Scali met on Tuesday before the hearing to discuss these points.

Benedict seemed to agree with the CLC's decision. "Six months is not enough time to complete the goal, but enough to take proactive steps" he said at the hearing. "We can move forward to make some progress on this."

Applying Early Is Popular

Early Applications, from Page 1

increasing interest in computer science," and this year's applicant pool is more diverse from those in previous years, Jones said.

Nationwide, some colleges and universities posted similar gains in their early action numbers. For example, Cornell and the University of Pennsylvania had approximately 10 percent increases from last year.

However, other institutions such as Harvard and Brown did not have such large increases — 1.2 and 5.6 percent, respectively. According to *The Harvard Crimson*, Harvard received 6,098 early applications, compared to 6,026 the year before.

"It appears that interest in early programs has leveled off," Harvard Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid William R. Fitzsimmons told *The Crimson*. Like MIT, many top schools saw a smaller increase in early applications than they saw last year.

Jones said that the sheer size of Harvard's applicant pool may also have contributed to its smaller increase this year.

In general, Jones said she felt the trend towards more early applications nationwide wasn't necessarily good. "It's a complicated thing. It's probably not very good for your 17-year-old. There's too much pressure on kids now."

Solution from page 9

Crossword

S	A	R	A	H	S	A	I	L	S	T	O	W
T	R	I	V	I	A	C	R	O	T	O	G	O
R	E	G	I	S	T	E	R	E	D	U	N	D
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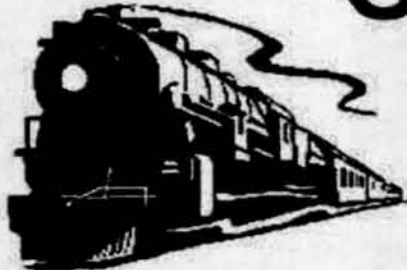


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Human Rights Bill Founders in House

Amnesty, from Page 1

declassified records show that many "unscrupulous" characters in Latin and Central American countries have been on the CIA pay roll.

Bill eases access to documents

Miller praised the HRIA, saying that he believes it will "exhume the truth" regarding the role of the United States in the "gross violation of human rights" in these parts of the world. It is "very important to hold accountable those who give orders, not just those who carry them out," Miller said.

In addition, the process of discovering the truth about atrocities will help "countries embroiled in political

struggles to heal," Miller said.

Although under this act the government would still be able to maintain the classified status of information deemed vital to national security, Miller said that "the burden of proof now falls on the government rather than those who are trying to gain access to these records."

The HRIA has encountered difficulty since being introduced in the House of Representatives three years ago. Miller expressed frustration that he often "buts up against special interests" and that a Republican-controlled Congress is less inclined to discuss a bill such as this one. He called for a grass roots political campaign in support of the HRIA.

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Rezoning May Limit Industry, Business

Zoning, from Page 1

increased housing in the city.

According to Beth Rubenstein, assistant city manager for community development, rezoning the 17 parcels outlined in the petition could create about 6,000 new units of housing.

Councillor Henrietta Davis, noting that the creation of more affordable housing is among the city's highest goals, commended the petition's authors for their strong focus on housing. "This [petition] deserves a lot of attention from the Council," Davis said. "It's a very exciting proposal in many ways and one we can be very proud of if we can bring the support of the full Council to bear."

Davis's enthusiastic comments were echoed by several residents reminding the city of the pressing need to increase the city's housing stock.

Business owners raise concerns

While recognizing the need for increased housing in Cambridge, several business leaders expressed concerns that the changes made in the petition could stifle their companies.

Businesses located in districts proposed for residential rezoning could continue to operate in those areas if the petition is passed, but expansions or changes of use of the businesses would require a special zoning variance.

Steven Maloney, director of government relations for the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council, told the Planning Board that the rezoning petition could have a negative impact on Cambridge's biotechnology industry.

Noting that "Cambridge is one of the few true world class centers of biotechnology on the planet," Maloney questioned the residential rezoning of industrial neighborhoods with heavy concentrations of biotechnology companies. He warned that zoning changes would make it difficult for companies to expand or relocate and said that rooftop heating, cooling, and ventilating systems, which would be restricted by the petition, are "an absolute necessity" for the biotechnology industry.

Attorney James Rafferty represents a company that seeks to build a mixed-use development on a Cambridge Street parcel targeted for residential rezoning. Rafferty, worrying that the small-scale retail planned for that development would be disallowed if exclusive residential zoning were adopted, urged the council "to be very careful about what we're fixing." Additionally, Rafferty said rezoning areas where businesses are currently located could make even small expansions of these operations very difficult.

"[This proposal is] one we can be very proud of if we can bring the support of the full Council to bear."

—Henrietta Davis,
City Councillor

New Cambridge Zoning Petition Would Affect the MIT Campus

The proposed zoning petition for Cambridge will affect MIT in a few significant ways.

Changes to the zoning of the east end of MIT's campus between Wadsworth Street and the Charles River would reduce the floor area ratio, or the total floor space on all floors divided by lot size, from 3.0 to 2.0. This change, called downzoning, essentially cuts the size of allowed developments in that region by 33 percent.

In addition, a broad swath of land at the north end of campus would be rezoned from industrial to residential. According to Cambridge Director of Land Use and Zoning Lester Barber, the zoning change is not meant to create new housing in the area but to recognize the nature of the land as the MIT campus. Much of the MIT campus is zoned as residential, and MIT's institutional uses are permitted on the land.

The nearby district along Albany Street in Cambridgeport is also targeted for residential rezoning, as are several plots in Kendall Square. The Kendall Square neighborhood would also be downzoned.

Universities generally supportive

Representatives of both MIT and Harvard expressed support for the petition before the Planning Board, although they did raise several areas of concern.

Sarah Gallop, co-director of MIT's Office of Government and Community Relations, told the Planning Board that MIT was "broadly supportive" of the petition but believed several parts of the petition needed further attention.

Gallop debated the wisdom of downzoning the eastern end of the MIT campus. Noting the area is surrounded by some of Cambridge's tallest buildings and enjoys easy access to the Kendall Square subway station, Gallop argued the area is appropriate for high-density development. She said that downzoning would make it more difficult for MIT to build within its core campus, another stated goal of the Planning Board.

According to Gallop, MIT also has some concerns about development changes proposed for the corridor paralleling the Boston and Albany railroad tracks. MIT is developing new undergraduate and graduate housing complexes there. Gallop also shared the concerns of biotechnology industry leaders that limits on rooftop mechanical devices could make it difficult to construct research-oriented buildings.

Gallop said that the petition's language was unclear at points, especially in the sections on project review and parking.

Despite these concerns, Gallop said MIT feels Cambridge will benefit from the petition. "We believe there is much to support in the above petition," Gallop told the Planning Board.

Kathy Spiegelman of Harvard University's Real Estate Office echoed Gallop's concerns about potentially vague wording and raised specific issues regarding downzoning in Harvard Square. She agreed that the petition could bring positive change to Cambridge.

Spiegelman thanked the Planning Board for recognizing that Harvard and MIT have unique needs. "Institutions need to be treated differently... and we very much appreciate the fact that the Planning Board and Community Development Department have respected that," Spiegelman said.

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